

The [supplemental appropriations bill](#) considered yesterday was divided into two portions: one provided funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for FY08 and FY09, and a second which funded critical domestic priorities.

Ending the War in Iraq

You may know that last year, I joined nearly ninety of my colleagues in the House in sending a letter to President Bush pledging that I will only support appropriating additional funds for U.S. military operations in Iraq during Fiscal Year 2008 and beyond for the protection and safe redeployment of our troops out of Iraq.

This conflict has degenerated into a sectarian civil war and U.S. taxpayers have paid more than \$500 billion, despite assurances that President Bush and his key advisors gave our nation at the time he ordered the invasion in March, 2003 that this military intervention would cost far less and be paid from Iraqi oil revenues.

The supplemental bill the House passed does not include a number of important policy provisions regarding the war originally included in the bill that was sent to the Senate. These important provisions would have called for the responsible redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq required that troops begin to withdraw from Iraq within 30 days of the proposal becoming law, with a goal of completing withdrawal by December 2009.

I am disappointed that the supplemental bill passed by the House does not include these provisions, and instead provides \$165 billion more for this disastrous war, without conditions.

I have heard and read the frustrated thoughts of many of my constituents who are simply tired of the Iraq war. They understand that we have spent an inordinate sum of tax dollars fighting a war that should have never been waged. They understand that our economy is suffering as a result of our resources being poured into this war. Last night, I voted against continuing to fund this open ended war.

Supporting Domestic Priorities

However, I remain in strong support of the second amendment to this supplemental appropriations bill, which funded our important domestic priorities. This domestic measure included a new GI bill to restore full, four-year college scholarships to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to help make them part of an economic recovery like the veterans of World War II. It also includes an historic extension of unemployment insurance benefits and assistance to disaster-stricken areas in the Midwest where unprecedented floods have occurred. The number of Americans looking for work has grown by 800,000 over the last year, and the number of American jobs has declined by 260,000 since the beginning of 2008. Both of these measures are beneficial to our country, extraordinarily meaningful to our veterans, and will address the current economic struggle we face.

As a representative of Silicon Valley, the hub of high technology in America, I am also happy that this amendment contains a modest amount of funding to help partially address meet the budget shortfalls facing the agencies that support our nation's research and development efforts.

I am disappointed that the amendment funding the war in Iraq is without strings or conditions, but was pleased to vote in favor of our nation's urgent priorities in the second amendment to this appropriations bill. We must continue to invest in a positive future for our country.